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United States
Department of
Agriculture
Bureau of
Agricultural and
Public Affairs

Major News Releases and Speeches

Oct. 8 - Oct. 15, 1982

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Speeches

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

Remarks prepared for delivery by Under Secretary of Agriculture Seeley G. Lodwick before the U.S.-Asia Institute, Chicago, Ill., Sept. 28, 1982

I am glad to be here with you today, because I feel honored to be among people who share my feelings of pride in our food production system. And you certainly have good reason to be proud of your beef industry here in Tennessee.

I am also cautiously optimistic about the prospects ahead for the cattle industry. Beef output rose 4 percent during the summer, and feedlot placements are expected to continue above the level of a year ago—due largely to the bumper crop of grain being harvested.

Though prices for Choice fed steers dropped off during the summer from what they were last spring, the economists tell us they should rise modestly through the first half of next year. Likewise, tighter supplies of all meat animals should help sustain prices at more profitable levels.

What this tells me is that America has finally begun to turn the corner leading to economic recovery. The strategy laid out by President Reagan is working. Those who remain skeptical need only look at what's been accomplished in the past 18 months.

Inflation has been cut by more than half. Interest rates have been squeezed back from a high of 21.5 percent when the president took office to 12 percent just this week. Federal spending has been put on a diet, and taxes for most Americans have been reduced. I'm well aware that unemployment recently reached double-digit proportions, but those who are out of work should begin to see things improve now that the economy is finally turning around.

With the American economy beginning to turn around, I feel it is very fitting that the United States will join with millions of people in some 150 other nations on Saturday to commemorate World Food Day. This day has been set aside around the world to focus attention on the plight of the hungry, and the efforts being made to alleviate their distress.

I am proud that the United States is a leader in the global efforts to eliminate world hunger. The Food for Peace program which President Eisenhower initiated in 1954 has made available hundreds of millions of tons of farm products to needy nations at a cost of \$40 billion.

But that's not all. We have sent more than 4,000 agricultural experts to developing nations to help them improve their agriculture. And, we have shared the results of our extensive agricultural research freely to scientists and farmers around the world.

In addition, we have provided training for more than 70,000 foreign agricultural students at universities here at home like your own University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and Tennessee State here in Nashville. This assistance has helped developing countries increase their food production at an annual rate of 3.2 percent over the past decade. Perhaps even more impressive an achievement, per capita consumption of calories has increased by 7.5 percent.

Here at home, our domestic nutrition programs have been a major factor in virtually eliminating poverty-caused hunger and malnutrition. Today, the federal government is subsidizing as many as 90 million meals per day in the form of school breakfast and lunches, food stamps, special food assistance to low income women, infants and children, and commodity distribution programs to schools, Indian reservations, charitable institutions, hospitals and state and local correction institutions.

The problems of hunger around the world, especially in the developing countries, have been widely publicized. Part of the problem stems from the fact that the world's population is increasing at an estimated rate of about 1.7 percent per year. Many experts believe that the world's population will reach 6 billion by the year 2000, and will double its present size to 8 billion by 2025.

Most of this growth is taking place in the low income, developing countries which are not producing enough food to meet basic nutritional requirements. Thus, the long-term solution to increasing world food supplies is to increase the productivity of farmers worldwide. . .and to increase the purchasing power in those countries which cannot produce increase the purchasing power in those countries which cannot produce enough to meet their needs.

That means building a strong agricultural base in the developing countries as the foundation for a strong national economy. All of us know that is what helped to make this country great, and I'm equally certain that everyone here recognizes the importance of keeping U.S. agricultural strong. Above all, I can assure you that our domestic and international policies are designed to accomplish these goals.

A key element in helping to increase food production where it is most needed is the pursuit of international trade policies that will foster economic exchange as well as increased personal health and prosperity.

We believe that more liberalized trade in agricultural commodities is important to world security, and to the development of all nations—especially the developing nations.

Further, we believe that all nations should cooperate in reducing trade barriers that work against the efficient production and distribution of the food and fiber products that are needed by both hungry and the healthy human beings throughout the world.

Let me give you an example of what a little aggressive promotion will do for farm exports. In 1976, we spent about \$3.1 million to promote American farm products among the developing countries—and exported about \$10 billion to that group of countries.

Over the next five years, we increased our market development efforts by about \$5 million, and succeeded in raising the value of farm exports by some \$12.7 billion. That's almost a 2500-to-1 return on an investment—and I'll take that kind of result anyday.

Cattle producers—if you'll pardon the pun—have a big stake in the expansion of our export markets. . .and I'm not talking about the relative competition for supplies of feed grains. Consumers do, too—though not necessarily the way you might feel.

Over the past decade, we have seen two distinct world markets for farm products emerge—one for bulk commodities like grain that are known as "low value products," and another for high value, usually processed products. In 1980, the world trade in these high value products equaled \$120 billion—surpassing the \$110 billion trade in the low value goods.

Unfortunately, the U.S. share of this total world market is only about 10 percent—far below what one would expect in view of our comparative advantage in farm production and cost efficient processing.

Most of that 10 percent U.S. share was in the semi-processed commodities, and not the highly processed or high value unprocessed products.

These high value exports involve selling both a product and a service—a service that tends to be capital and labor intensive, and one that encompasses a wide range of economic activities.

Thus, if we had achieved a growth in high value exports comparable to what we have gained in low value products over the past 10 years, we estimate that we would now be exporting an additional \$9 billion worth of agricultural products.

What's equally important—to both cattle producers and consumers alike—is that this additional volume of exports would have generated another 350,000 jobs for American workers in processing, marketing and handling those goods.

By 1990, it's estimated that this export market for high value products will reach somewhere between \$310 billion and \$440 billion. If we could capture an additional 5 percent of that market—thus raising our share to 15 percent—we could expect the added trade to generate a one to two percent increase in our Gross National Product. . .not to mention about 1.5 million more jobs for American workers.

Those are achievements worth working towards. . .especially here in Tennessee where you have begun to keep your feeder cattle here at home, instead of selling them off to midwestern feedlots.

Capitalizing upon the opportunities presented by this high value export market will not be easy. I can assure you that this administration will do everything possible to expand these exports. We can expect strong competition—and, yes, even outright protectionism—from other nations in the European Community and elsewhere to retain their share of this lucrative market.

But if we can maintain the kind of pride in our agricultural plant that you have here in Tennessee, I'm confident we'll meet our goal.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

BLOCK ANNOUNCES OVERSEAS DAIRY DONATION PROGRAM

KNOXVILLE, Ill., Oct. 8—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said today the U.S. Department of Agriculture is making government-owned butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk available for donation to foreign governments and to public and private nonprofit humanitarian organizations assisting needy persons outside the United States.

"This action will substantially reduce government costs in maintaining the large dairy surpluses that have accumulated," Block said. "This surplus is growing and much of it could go to waste if not used very soon. It would be irresponsible for the U.S. not to implement this humanitarian program to help those people in the world who do not have enough food."

USDA will begin accepting applications under this program immediately, Block said.

As of Sept. 30, dairy stocks were valued at \$2.9 billion and included 403 million pounds of butter, 825 million pounds of cheese and 1,177 million pounds of nonfat dry milk. These products were acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation under its dairy price support program.

These donations will be made under authority for overseas dairy donations under Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949. They will be available indefinitely and will not replace normal commercial trade in dairy products.

USDA will accept applications from private voluntary agencies registered with the Bureau for Food for Peace and Voluntary Assistance of the Agency for International Development. Applications from charitable groups that previously purchased CCC dairy commodities for social welfare use will be considered.

Requests for information and applications should be addressed to: Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of the General Sales Manager, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 447-3573.

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BLOCK CALLS FOR GRASSROOTS INITIATIVE TO HELP FmHA BORROWERS

KNOXVILLE, ILL., Oct. 9—A grassroots initiative to help Farmers Home Administration borrowers stay in business for the 1983 crop year was announced today by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

Block has ordered every FmHA county supervisor to meet personally with local bankers, Production Credit Association officials, and other private lenders to discuss credit needs and to work out local solutions.

"The emphasis is on solutions," Block said. "Those solutions have to be found on the grassroots level. Discussions between lenders and myself on a national level will accomplish little unless we are assured that our efforts and policies are instituted in every local community. That's why I expect every FmHA county supervisor to have met with local lenders by the end of October."

Block recently met with the American Bankers Association, the Independent Bankers Association of America, and the Farm Credit System to discuss the successful efforts achieved in 1982 through working together. "We plan to build on those efforts to meet credit needs of 1983," Block said.

He said those efforts will assure borrowers that their loan requests will be considered, even though they have not been able to repay their loans because of circumstances beyond their control. "The criteria we will generally follow is that they have made good faith efforts to repay, that they practiced good management, and that they properly maintained property used to secure loans."

Persons meeting this criteria who can secure existing FmHA and other loans, plus any new loans, probably can be continued if the planned year income is sufficient to make current loan payments, Block said. Persons in this category could include those who have been delinquent one or more years on FmHA and other loans, or have had other problems such as production losses due to difficulties that could be corrected through adequate planning and supervision.

Persons who cannot meet those requirements, but have similar delinquency histories and perhaps other management or technical skill problems, might justify for a new loan if the loan and interest could be repaid from the 1983 year's income.

"Let me emphasize that every loan application will be considered on its individual merits," Block said. "We will continue to deal on a case-by-case basis to ensure that each one receives the attention it requires."

Farmers Home field offices have been instructed to begin reviewing loan cases for 1983 as soon as possible. The agency will continue to offer deferrals, rescheduling and reamortization where necessary to assist borrowers.

#

SYMPOSIUM TO DEAL WITH IMPACT OF MODERN COMMUNICATIONS ON SCIENCE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12—Scientists will study the impact of rapidly advancing communications technology on agricultural research at a symposium Oct. 20-22 at the National 4-H Center, 7100 Connecticut Ave.

"We will look at the interaction between scientists, information specialists, librarians and others as an essential factor in addressing the impact of information on research," said Richard A. Farley, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library.

Orville G. Bentley, dean of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture and designated assistant secretary of agriculture for science and education, will make the keynote speech.

Bentley will discuss the utility and impact of new information gathering and dissemination techniques on agricultural research.

Other speakers include: Paul Putnam, director of USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center; J.W. Morrison, director-general of Institutes, Agriculture Canada; Keith A. Huston, director-at-large, North Central Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster; Quentin Jones, germplasm program coordinator for USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and Robert Evenson, economics professor at the Economic Growth Center, Yale University.

Robert Clodius, executive director of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant colleges, will speak on "Science and Society" at a dinner Oct. 20 at the library in Beltsville, Md.

Martin Rogoff of the program analysis and coordination staff, Agricultural Research Service, will discuss data banks at a buffet lunch Oct. 21 at the 4-H center.

On Oct. 21, the dinner speaker at the 4-H center will be John J. Mckelvey, Jr., associate director for agricultural science, Rockefeller Foundation. His topic will be "Stalking the Spector of Hunger."

Sponsors of the symposium are the USDA, National Agricultural Library, The Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc., and the Agricultural History Society.

Further information is available from Leila Moran, National Agricultural Library, Room 1402, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone (301) 344-3937.

#

EGG REFERENDUM FAILS—CURRENT EGG ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12—Fifty-nine percent of the 1,225 egg producers voting in a referendum failed to support changes to the national egg research and promotion order which would have increased the assessment rate charged to all nonexempt commercial egg producers and added two consumer representatives to the American Egg Board.

H. Connor Kennett, a poultry official with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service, said under the current order, the research and promotion program will continue to be financed by an assessment of 5-cents for each 30-dozen eggs marketed. This fee, refundable upon demand to the board, is used to finance research and promotion projects carried out under the order.

If approved, the assessment fees charged to all non-exempt commercial egg producers would have initially increased to 7-1/2 cents with yearly increases thereafter of three-quarters of a cent until a 10-cent maximum rate was reached.

The other change would have added two consumer representatives and their alternates to the current 18-producer member board, the group responsible for administering the order.

To go into effect, the changes had to be approved by at least two-thirds of the producers voting, or by at least a majority of producers voting if they produced during the period April 1 through June 30, 1982, at least two-thirds of the commercial eggs of those voting. The amendments were authorized by the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act, as amended.

The results of the vote, which were combined in some cases to avoid disclosure of individual operators, are:

State	Vote by Producer 1			Production Voted 1		
	For	Against (number)	% For	For	Against (thous. cases)	% For 2
Ala.	7	11	39	314	626	33
Ark.	10	16	38	661	152	81
Calif.	44	72	38	2,529	1,432	64
Colo.	4	6	40	91	91	50
Conn.	10	7	59	79	77	51
Fla.	19	6	76	926	460	67
Ga.	25	22	51	881	764	54
Idaho	3	3	50	57	65	47
Ill.	18	30	38	176	267	40
Ind.	51	50	50	383	863	31
Iowa	26	39	40	384	151	72
Kan.	7	3	70	47	12	80
Mass.	4	8	33	35	14	71
Mich.	29	47	38	343	242	59
Minn.	21	42	33	464	173	73
Mo.	6	14	30	23	100	18
N.Y.	25	46	35	433	319	58
N.C.	24	14	63	673	39	95
Ohio	19	72	21	171	380	31
Ore.	5	4	56	78	30	72
Pa.	47	79	37	774	605	56

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State	Vote by Producer 1			Production Voted 1		
	For	Against (number)	% For	For	Against (thous. cases)	% For 2
S.C.	4	11	27	94	76	55
S.D.	7	6	54	87	23	79
Texas	14	27	34	391	270	59
Utah	4	3	57	126	51	71
Va.	9	7	56	94	22	81
Wash.	12	11	52	691	67	91
W.Va.	3	4	43	4	14	21
Wis.	8	34	19	100	266	27
Other 16 states ³						

¹ Where firms owned production units in more than one state, data are under state where firm is headquartered.

² Computed on unrounded data.

³ No votes received from Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming.

Note: Alaska and Hawaii are not covered under the order.

#

U.S. GOVERNMENT OBSERVES WORLD FOOD DAY OCT. 15

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12—Richard E. Lyng, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will be keynote speaker at the U.S. government's World Food Day program at the USDA administration building, 14th and Independence Ave. S.W., on Friday, Oct. 15.

World Food Day was established by the United Nations to call attention to the need to combat hunger and provide greater world food security.

Participating in the USDA program will be the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Education, Interior, State and the Agency for International Development, the Peace Corps, Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Information Agency. The theme for the U.S. government's program is "Helping Others to Help Themselves."

USDA has distributed packets of background information to communities, schools, colleges and universities and other organizations participating in the World Food Day activities.

Speakers and exhibits at the USDA program will focus on how the United States has contributed to resolving world food problems, said Joan S. Wallace, administrator of USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development and chairperson of the U.S. governmental steering committee for World Food Day.

Peter McPherson, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, will speak on "The Role of AID" in describing his agency's efforts to assist developing nations. Other program participants will include Seeley G. Lodwick, under secretary for international affairs and commodity programs; Donald Kimmel, North American representative of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization; and Patricia Young, chairperson, National Committee for World Food Day.

World Food Day is Oct. 16.

#

BLOCK NAMES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COTTON STANDARDS, SCHEDULES MEETING

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has named members and alternates to a newly created advisory committee for instrument standards on cotton and scheduled their first meeting for Nov. 4 and 5.

C.W. McMillan, assistant secretary for marketing and inspection services, said the committee will hold its first meeting at the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Nov. 4 at 9 a.m. in room 104-A of USDA's Administration Building.

McMillan is chairman of the committee. Vern F. Highley,

administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, is vice chairman.

McMillan said the agenda will include review of the historical development of cotton standards for both manual and instrument classing, discussion of current methods of establishing instrument standards, comparison of test results obtained from various fiber testing instruments, development of a list of issues for future consideration, and development of a plan of action.

The meeting will be open to the public, but space and facilities are limited. Public participation will be limited to written statements received in advance. Statements should be sent to: Jesse F. Moore, Cotton Division, AMS, USDA, 302 Annex Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20250.

Committee members are:

Representing the growers: Tiney W. Stockton, Jr., Crosbyton, Texas, Bruce N. Lynn, Gilliam, La., and Jere Griggs, Humboldt, Tenn. Alternate grower members are Wayne Huffaker, Tahoka, Texas, and Dan P. Logan, Gilliam, La.

Representing the ginners are Jerry D. Harris, Lamesa, Texas, and J.S. Francis, Phoenix, Ariz. Alternate ginner members are Frank T. Domino, Indianola, Miss., and W.J. Reckling, Jr., Phoenix, Ariz.

Representing the cotton merchants are Herman F. Riddle, Germantown, Tenn., and John D. Barrentine, Bakersfield, Calif. Alternates for the merchants are Walton H. Scott, Jr., Spartanburg, S.C. and Harry D. East, Marion, Ark.

Representing the cooperatives are Jerry L. Cappello, Bakersfield, Calif., and Albert S. Kyle, Lubbock, Texas. Cooperative alternates are Herman L. Hodges, Greenwood, Miss., and Willis M. Barber, Sr., El Paso, Texas.

Representing the textile manufacturers are John R. Martin, Greensboro, N.C., and Chessley B. Howard, Augusta, Ga. Textile alternates are George R. Herron, Taylors, S.C., and Bill W. Henry, Sylacauga, Ala.

Representing the warehouse industry is Bennie W. Loper, Germantown, Tenn.

Representing the academic or research community are James S. Parker, Lubbock, Texas, and Everette E. Backe, Crozer, Va. Alternate

members are William C. Stuckey, Jr., Raleigh, N.C., and Ernest C. Cox, Dallas, Texas.

Notice of the meeting and the agenda is scheduled to be published in the Oct. 12 Federal Register, available at many public libraries.

#

TRADE GROUP TO FUND MONTHLY CATFISH REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will receive funds from an industry trade association to continue collecting data and publishing estimates concerning catfish production and prices, according to William E. Kibler, administrator of USDA's Statistical Reporting Service.

The Catfish Farmers of America will fund costs to collect data from processors, develop a set of national estimates, and publish a monthly report covering live weight of catfish processed, prices paid to producers, end-of-month inventories, and quantity sold and prices received by processors.

Kibler said the next catfish report will be issued Oct. 20 and each succeeding month on or about that date at 3 p.m. EST from USDA's Crop Reporting Board.

The Crop Reporting Board will mail free copies to processors responding to the survey. News media representatives may pick up free copies in room 5829-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. Others may purchase single copies for \$1.25 or subscribe to the annual series for \$12. Order forms are available at the Crop Reporting Board office or by calling (202) 447-4021.

#

USDA TO REQUIRE PRODUCERS TO CERTIFY TOBACCO NOT "NESTED"

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will now require tobacco producers to certify in writing that any tobacco they deliver for price support has not been "nested."

According to Everett Rank, executive vice president of the Commodity Credit Corporation, "nested" describes any lot of tobacco offered for official inspection which has been loaded, packed or arranged to conceal foreign material or tobacco of inferior grade, quality or condition.

Rank said the change will apply to the 1982 and subsequent crops of quota tobacco, except the 1982 crop of flue-cured for which marketing is nearly completed.

If the CCC determines that a producer knowingly delivered nested tobacco, CCC will not give that producer price support for any tobacco marketed during the marketing year in which the false certification occurred, Rank said.

Rank said the new regulation is being issued as an interim rule because there is not enough time for comment before the burley and other tobacco markets open in November.

Comments on the interim rule should be sent by Dec. 13 to: director, tobacco and peanuts division, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. Comments will be available for inspection in room 5750-S, during regular business hours.

#

BLOCK SAYS U.S. WILL NOT RESTRICT MEAT IMPORTS FOR FOURTH QUARTER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block announced today that the fourth quarterly estimate of U.S. meat imports for 1982 is below the level that would require restraints on imports under the Meat Import Act of 1979.

Block said, based on estimates of available supplies, imports of beef and certain other meats should total about 1.295 billion pounds—5 million pounds below the 1982 trigger point of 1.3 billion pounds. The

1.295 billion pound fourth quarterly estimate is based on Voluntary Restraint Agreements with Australia and New Zealand and an exchange of letters with the Canadian government.

The Meat Import Act requires the president to restrict imports of certain meats—primarily beef and veal—if U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates of those meat imports will equal or exceed 110 percent of a stated level.

"Based on today's estimate, there was no need to impose quota restrictions," Block said.

USDA makes a new estimate of meat imports before each calendar quarter. The first quarterly estimate for 1983 will be made in December and announced on or before Jan. 1.

No import restrictions on meat imports were imposed during 1980 or 1981, or the first three quarters of 1982.

Imports of meat subject to the law—by month—are:

Month	1979	1980	1981	1982
<i>Millions of pounds</i>				
January	120.9	144.3	79.5	55.5
February	134.2	107.0	109.2	67.5
March	151.5	97.1	90.6	127.9
April	142.4	101.9	107.6	119.2
May	144.6	105.0	81.9	86.0
June	139.4	99.5	98.1	160.6
July	120.7	146.0	112.2	99.2
August	104.9	123.4	102.1	133.8
September	84.8	100.5	114.1	—
October	122.5	132.4	122.7	—
November	132.0	104.6	97.3	—
December	155.9	169.3	101.6	—
Total *	1,553.8	1,431.0	1,216.8	

* Totals may not add due to rounding.

#

USDA TO INCREASE RATES FOR MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION ON OCT. 17

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Oct. 17 will increase the overtime rate charged to meat and poultry plants for mandatory inspection from \$18.12 to \$19.40 per hour and the charge for laboratory work from \$27.28 to \$31 per hour.

These fee increases were proposed Aug. 30 to help the government cover increasing costs for providing these services, said Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The basic hourly inspection rate for voluntary inspection and certification services will increase from \$14.64 to \$16.68, according to Houston. This type of inspection is provided on a fee-for-service basis for certification that meat or poultry meets appropriate specifications. It also applies to voluntary inspection services such as for rabbits.

Comments received following publication of the proposal generally opposed the fee increases on economic grounds.

"Each year, the fees for inspection service are reviewed and a cost analysis is prepared to determine if they are adequate to recover government costs," Houston said. "The new rates reflect the minimum increase needed by USDA to provide these services."

Under the Federal Meat and Poultry Inspection Acts, USDA must assume all inspection costs during routine working hours in plants producing meat and poultry products for interstate or foreign commerce.

Notice of the fee changes is scheduled to be published in the Oct. 13 Federal Register, available in many public libraries.

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USDA TO HOST COMMODITY RESEARCH AND PROMOTION ROUNDTABLE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will host a conference for commodity research and promotion groups Oct. 25-27 in Washington, D.C.

According to Vern Highley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, the Commodity Roundtable will be the first such

conference USDA will hold to bring together various commodity boards and committees that work with the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Highley said the event is planned to be a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas on how to improve commodity research, promotion and education programs. The meetings also will enhance the working relationship between government and the industry groups involved, he said.

Representatives of these industry groups are scheduled to participate in the meetings:

American Egg Board, American Sheep Producers Council, Cotton Board, National Potato Promotion Board, United Dairy Industry Association, Wheat Industry Council, Idaho East-Oregon Onion Committee, Florida Celery Committee, Raisin Administrative Committee, Almond Board of California and California Date Administrative Committee.

Texas Valley Citrus Committee, California Grapefruit Administrative Committee, Florida Lime and Avocado Administrative Committee, Tokay Grape Industry Committee, Papaya Administrative Committee, Olive Administrative Committee, Nectarine Administrative Committee, California Tree Fruit Agreement, Society of American Florists, American Mushroom Institute and National Livestock and Meat Board.

The conference will be held in the Hotel Washington.

#

USDA PROPOSES CHANGES TO U.S. RICE STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing changes to the U.S. rice standards to better reflect current milling and marketing practices, a USDA official said today.

"Based on comments received from periodic reviews, the industry generally appears to favor keeping rough rice standards as currently written, and supports changes to the standards for brown rice for processing and milled rice," said Kenneth A. Gilles, administrator of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service.

Proposed changes in the standards covering brown rice for processing would allow the determinations for red rice, damaged kernels, chalky kernels, and other types to be conducted on a milled portion of the brown rice sample to give a better indication of the quality to be expected after milling.

Proposed changes in the standards covering milled rice are:

- Establish definitions for related and unrelated foreign material, and establish grade limits for these and total foreign material for each class of milled rice;
- Amend the definition of milled rice to delete the requirement that a part of the germ be removed from milled rice kernels; and
- Redefine coated milled rice so that the industry can coat milled rice with additives that are considered safe and suitable under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, rather than be restricted to the use of glucose and talc.

Comments should be sent in duplicate by Dec. 14 to Lewis Lebakken, Jr., Regulations and Directives Management, USDA, FGIS, Room 1636-S, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone (202) 382-0231. Details of the proposal are scheduled to be published in the Oct. 15 Federal Register.

#

USDA ANNOUNCES P.L. 480 COUNTRY/COMMODITY ALLOCATIONS FOR FY 1983

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released its tentative allocations of food assistance, by country and commodity, for fiscal year 1983 under Title I/III of Public Law 480, the Food for Peace Program.

According to Alan Tracy, deputy undersecretary for international affairs, \$696.2 million of the planned \$783.2 million in commodity assistance has been tentatively allocated. Tracy said 28 countries presently are scheduled to receive approximately 3.4 million metric tons of food assistance. The three largest allocations are scheduled for Egypt, \$250 million; Bangladesh, \$60 million, and Pakistan, \$50 million.

Tracy said the \$87 million not yet allocated has been set aside as a reserve to furnish commodities for unforeseen needs during the remainder of the fiscal year.

He said the initial allocations were designed to meet the requirement of Section III of the P.L. 480 act, which directs that not less than 75 percent of food aid commodities be allocated to friendly countries that meet the International Development Association poverty criterion. The countries in this category are those with an annual per capita gross national product of \$795 or less.

Tracy also said approximately 15 percent of the value of the Title I allocations identified today would be used to finance Title III Food for Development programs.

Tracy said the program takes into account variations in commodity and budget availabilities in the United States and participating countries; changing economic and foreign policy situations, including human rights assessments; potential for market development; fluctuations in commodity prices; availability of handling, storage and distribution facilities; possible disincentive to local production and other factors.

Since situations may develop which could cause a change in country and commodity allocations during the fiscal year, the initial allocations represent neither final U.S. commitments nor agreements with participating governments, although a number of Title I/III agreements are expected to be signed shortly.

Title I of P.L. 480 is a concessional sales program designed to promote exports of agricultural commodities from the United States and to foster economic development in recipient countries. The program provides loans of up to 40 years, with a 10-year grace period at low interest rates.

Title III provides for the forgiveness of the debt incurred under Title I, based on accomplishments in food for development programs and projects agreed upon by the United States and recipient countries.

Additional technical information on the P.L. 480 program is available from Fred Blott of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, (202) 382-9247.

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USDA ANNOUNCES RECALL OF DRIED BEEF IN CALIFORNIA, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the recall of "Armenian Brand Dried Beef" from delicatessens, retail stores and sandwich shops in southern California and New Jersey, because of salmonella, a food poisoning organism.

The product is produced by Garo's Basturma, Pasadena, Calif., and is normally sold to consumers over-the-counter as a sliced product. It was distributed in Los Angeles, Hollywood, Glendale, Pasadena, Santa Monica, Burbank, Inglewood, Normandy, Hawaiian Gardens, Saint Claire, San Gabriel, North Ridge, Fountain Valley and Downey, Calif., and Jersey City, N.J.

Consumers who have recently bought sliced, spice-coated dried beef should contact the store where they bought it and determine whether it was produced by Garo's Basturma, said Merlin A. Nelson, acting administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Nelson said the firm is cooperating with USDA in the recall of the product. None of the other products made by Garo's is affected by the recall, Nelson said.

The problem came to USDA's attention after several people became ill from eating the dried beef in California. Subsequent tests at USDA laboratories confirmed the presence of salmonella.

Nelson said all current production of the product has been halted until the cause of the contamination has been found and all suspect product has been accounted for.

Salmonella is a food poisoning organism which causes diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea and fever. It usually starts about 12-36 hours after eating the contaminated product and lasts for about 2-7 days.

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U.S. WILL CONTRIBUTE \$250 MILLION TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

AMERICUS, Ga., Oct. 15—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today said the United States will contribute \$250 million to the World Food Program in 1983-84. Block made the pledge in a statement commemorating World Food Day.

The U.S. contribution represents a 14 percent increase over the 1981-82 commitment and is more than 20 percent of the World Food Program's \$1.2 billion target for 1983-84.

Created in 1962 as a joint project of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Program serves as a multinational channel for food to the poorer countries for economic and social development.

Block said, "The American people and American farmers have been generous in providing food aid to those less well-off than ourselves. In that spirit, we are announcing here and at the FAO in Rome, the U.S. pledge to the World Food Program of \$250 million in grains, dairy products and the cash needed to transport those commodities."

Citing World Food Day as an international event set aside by more than 150 nations to focus public attention on food, Block said, "The United States is a leader in efforts to eliminate world hunger. Our Food for Peace program, started by President Eisenhower in 1954, has since made available to needy nations hundreds of millions of tons of farm products at a cost of \$40 billion.

"We have sent more than 4,000 agricultural experts to developing nations to help them improve their agriculture," Block said.

Block also pointed out that U.S. assistance has helped developing countries increase food production at an annual rate of 3.2 percent.

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USDA TO RAISE RATES FOR GRADING EGGS, POULTRY AND RABBITS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15—Beginning Nov. 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase the rates it charges to grade eggs, poultry and rabbits, and also will raise the overtime and holiday inspection rates for egg products.

Vern F. Highley, administrator for USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the rates are being changed to reflect increased costs of providing these services. He said the present rates, in effect since Nov. 1, 1981, are no longer adequate to offset operating costs.

The charge for covering USDA supervision of grading and overhead expenses will be increased from \$.020 to \$.024 per case of shell eggs and from \$.00020 to \$.00024 per pound of poultry. The basic hourly rate charged for lot grading will be raised to \$20.76 from the current \$18.96.

The overtime and holiday rates USDA charges plants under egg products inspection will increase to \$16.56 and \$14.20 per hour. The current rates are \$16.52 and \$13.08, respectively. The per hour costs for laboratory services will increase to \$24.24 from \$22.76. The cost of individual laboratory tests also will increase approximately 7 percent.

Grading services, administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service, are made available upon request of financially interested parties. The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 requires fees to be reasonable, and as nearly as possible, to equal the cost of rendering the services. Under the Egg Products Inspection Act, the cost of overtime and holiday services must be borne by the user, but appropriated funds pay the basic costs.

Highley said the new rates are being put into effect on an interim final basis—without a formal proposal—because of the immediate need to bring revenue in line with expenses.

"The interim final rule will still allow full public participation in the rulemaking process," Highley said.

Notice of the interim rule will be published in the Oct. 15 Federal Register, available at many public libraries. Public comments, which must be received by Nov. 15, should be sent to D. M. Holbrook, chief, Standardization Branch, Poultry Division, AMS, USDA, rm. 3944-S, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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USDA ANNOUNCES RECALL OF CHILI PRODUCT IN TEXAS, LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the voluntary recall by Wolf Brand Products of two lots of 15-ounce cans of "Wolf Brand Chili Without Beans" from retail outlets in Texas and Louisiana because food poisoning organisms may be present.

No cases of illness were reported.

The product, produced by Wolf Brand Products, Corsicana, Texas, can be identified by the code numbers PC2H2 and AC2H2 and the official establishment number, 1057, which are embossed on the can lid. No other codes or products produced by the firm—including chili with beans—are affected by this recall, according to Merlin A. Nelson, acting administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Consumers who have purchased this product should return it to the store where it was bought, Nelson said.

"Under no circumstances should the product be opened or eaten, even if it looks and smells normal," he said.

Nelson said the firm is cooperating with USDA in the recall of the product, which was produced Aug. 2. Approximately 2,490 cases were produced and distributed.

The problem was brought to USDA's attention by Wolf Brand Products after a distributor in Garland, Texas, reported swollen cans. Subsequent tests at USDA laboratories confirmed the presence of clostridia-type organisms which could be of potential public health significance.

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U.S. PLEDGES CONTINUED FOOD AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15—The United States will continue to provide substantial food aid and technical assistance to low income, developing countries as part of its ongoing effort to resolve world hunger and malnutrition, according to Richard E. Lyng, deputy secretary of agriculture. Lyng spoke today at the official U.S. ceremony marking World Food Day.

Lyng said the United States is the largest individual donor of food assistance to developing countries, having made more than \$40 billion in food aid available since the Food for Peace (P.L. 480) program began under President Eisenhower in 1954.

Lyng said the USDA and the Agency for International Development have sent several thousand technical experts and scientists to work on agricultural projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to help build food production in developing countries. At the same time, since 1960 more than 70,000 agriculturalists from developing countries have come to the United States to receive training.

World Food Day was established by the United Nations to call attention to the need to combat hunger and provide greater world food security. The theme for the U.S. government's program is "Helping Others to Help Themselves."

Speakers and exhibits at the USDA program focused on how the United States has contributed to resolving world food problems, said Joan S. Wallace, administrator of USDA's Office of International Cooperation and chairperson of the U.S. governmental steering committee for World Food Day.

In addition to helping increase food production in areas where it is most needed, Lyng said, the United States is aggressively pursuing international trade policies which will serve the long-term interests of all nations.

On the domestic level, Lyng said, the U.S. government spent more than \$16 billion for food assistance programs in the 1982 fiscal year, and subsidizes 99 million meals daily.

World Food Day is Oct. 16.

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